

OLD VIRGINY 'FO DE WAR

FIRST saw the light of day in the famous old Taylor house, in Winchester, Va., famous before the war as the stopping place of Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and others of the old regime of statesmen, and for being the best kept tavern in the Shenandoah valley from Harper's Ferry to Staunton, a distance of 130 miles; famous during the war as headquarters of General Stonewall Jackson, Early, Sheridan, Hancock, Banks, Milroy and others. It was also the starting point of General Sheridan's famous ride. Since then I have but little record of the place of my birth, but trust that it still maintains its reputation of ante-bellum days.

How well do I remember the rattle of the old Concord coach (sometimes a mile away) and the pit-a-pat on the macadam pike of the horses' feet, those driver would not exchange places with the president of the United States. A sharp crack of the whip as they came thundering down Main street was a signal to old Bush Taylor (the landlord) and his porter, Harry Nelson, to be in readiness to grasp hands, and carpet bags, of thirty or more tired and dusty passengers. After the usual halting Mr. Taylor would escort the ladies to the reception room, while Harry piloted the "gemmen" to the bar, whether they expressed a desire for that particular locality or not. He always took that granted, and, I think, was generally correct in his diagnosis. He believed that a little punch and honey, old rye, or apple jack (from Apple Pie Ridge) was highly essential to remove the dust from the inside of their Adam's apple. He was always allowed to join in this inward ablution, a privilege he never declined. Bushrod Taylor (from whom the hotel takes its name) was the best known hotel man in the valley of Virginia. As such, he had no equal. In fact, he was everything about a hotel, when needs be, from a host-black to the distinguished position he held. He was as entertaining to the ladies' parlor as he was jolly and good natured in the poker room. It was not etiquette in those days to retire without playing the national game. Some of the old players considered it a breach to retire at all. When old John P. Walls, Tom Tibball, Bally Kiger, Davy Waddle and some more of those old-timers whose names I have forgotten warmed up around a poker table there was no telling how long a game would last. One night they were playing, and among them a big Irishman (a horse buyer), who was stopping over night at the hotel, had been invited to join them. Some time along about the wee hours of the morning they had all dropped out of the game but Walls, Davy Waddle (known as Uncle Davy) and the gentleman from Cork. Walls and the Irish gentleman were also about to quit the game, when Uncle Davy proposed that they all take an other drink of apple jack and play an hour longer. This was agreed to, and old Harry was awakened and ordered to pass the bottle. (He was the attendant to the poker room, and all the sleep that he got was between drinks.) This seemed to put new life into the game, and it was not long until each of them was ready to bet his last dollar. The gentleman from the Emerald Isle had a pat full to start with. Walls had three kings and picked up one more in the draw. Uncle Davy had two aces before the draw, finishing with four after the cards were helped. Excitement was now at welding heat, and the betting commenced in earnest. The cards were dealt, the one last time before and were sitting around the table, as if the game was over. Twenty better went the round several times, until finally the stranger called, at the same time spreading out a queen full, and commenced to rake in the shekels, confident that he had won. Mr. Walls reminded him that he was a little hasty, that he had four kings. Uncle Davy's who had remained quiet and composed, broke the silence by saying: "Gentlemen, you are both beaten, for I have four aces." Pat rose slowly from his seat, maddened by defeat and apple brandy, and, leaning over the table with clenched fist, asked Walls if he really had four kings. Walls laid his hand upon the table and held him to see for himself. But he took Walls square between the eyes that sent him to the floor, doubled up in a heap. He then turned to Uncle Davy, saying: "And ye have four aces?" Old Davy, seeing that he was about to land on his cranium, too, in about the same place, threw his hand to the deck and said: "Sir, take the pot. I was only bluffing." Pat was in the act of doing so, when old Harry (who had already drawn his razor) shouted at the top of his voice: "Dat is Mass Davy's pot, and he gwine to get it!" By that time old John P. had regained his equilibrium, and with the assistance of the bystanders and Harry's gleaming weapon, Pat was persuaded to retire, minus the pot and without even taking a parting drink. This was indulged in, however, several times by the others. Davy proposed three cheers for Mr. Nelson, which were given with a whoop, at the same time handing him a \$20 gold piece for military purposes.

These good old souls are dead and gone. They have cashed in their checks. Their game of life is over; their reward in the old song that I begin to recall scenes and incidents of fifty years ago quite a flood of memory opens up that makes me feel young again.

Though my eyes are growing dim, I fancy that I can see old Harry Nelson as though it was yesterday. Six and a half feet high, a shade lighter than the rest of the spades, and a North Carolina razor back in his long, magnificent blue coat with brass buttons, white shirt front, that bore an imitation diamond the size of a hickory nut, high standing collar with cardinal necktie, silk hat that had been through one or two generations, and striped pantaloons that had been worn by his number twelve began. He was a typical southern negro of more than the average intelligence, full of anecdotes and jokes, extremely kind and polite, which won for him the admiration of the traveling public, and many dime, quarters and half dollars besides. The old song that could be heard from Fort Hill to Shawnee Spring still rings in my ears and makes my mouth water for the hot waffles and broiled chicken, unsurpassed coffee, with sure enough cream, country ham with eggs fresh from the nearby dairies, and side dishes too numerous to mention. This was a 50-cent supper by those days, prepared by an old Virginia black mammy, the best cooks the world ever produced. During the war, when General Banks occupied Winchester, this old song, that for half a century had been calling people from labor to refreshments, was confiscated or stolen by some of his troops. It was not seen or heard again until General Banks evacuated the town, hotly pursued by General Jackson. In the height of the stampede through the streets there was a wagon drawn by four mules, in full gallop and standing in the rear end was a big German sutler pounding away on this piece of old sounding brass a long jangle in Winchester. Whether he made good his escape with this old

relic of the Taylor house I do not know, but if he maintained the Lord Dillon gait he struck leaving Winchester, I'm quite sure if he was not run down by a cannon ball he was not captured, for that was about the only thing going that morning that could overtake him.

The halcyon days of peace had taken the "wings of the morning," and war, which General Sherman says "is hell," was now upon us. The rattle of the stage coach was now supplanted by the rumbling of wagon trains and artillery. The hot waffles and broiled chicken had given way to rye coffee

and corn pone, and even this scant ration was not always forthcoming. The quiet old town of Winchester was now the seat of war, of the battle-ground of the Shenandoah valley, changing color every few days, from the blue to the gray, and vice versa. When I contrast these days of plenty and prosperity with those of forty years ago, "when a crowd had to carry his knapsack with him," when everything was in a state of devastation and ruin, I wonder how in the name of heaven we survived. Homes in ashes, with little to eat and scarcely anything to wear, not a hoof left with which to till the soil, everything gone; nothing left but the indomitable pluck and courage of a people (mostly women and children), who never say die; and though crushed to earth, rose

again; and today in their beautiful homes, with well stocked farms and fields laden with grain, with war mortgages no longer hanging over them, are enjoying peace and prosperity with their more fortunate neighbors north of the Mason and Dixon line. They are the same kind and hospitable people, forgetting the past and extending the right hand of fellowship to the stranger within their gates. So mote it be. May they be semper idem.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Easily Got Spice of Danger.

(New York Tribune.) William Nelson Cromwell, the representative of the French Panama canal commission, recently called on President Roosevelt in Washington. Mr. Cromwell is something of a sportsman, and during

the interview he told the president a sporting anecdote. "Some years ago," he said, "I spent a week in Germany shooting small game. To a German acquaintance one morning I happened to remark that I preferred to shoot in Africa because there was a spice of danger in the sport there. 'Ach,' said my friend, 'you like a spice of danger in your sport, eh? Do you go out shooting with me. Do last time I go, I shoot mine brother-in-law in the leg.'"

Pointed Paragraphs.

Pessimists thrive on disappointments. Love is the only sure cure for feminine coquetry. Some men seem to have the horseless brand of horse sense. Dishonesty has passed the limit when a man cheats at solitaire. Probably the mule kicks because his owner doesn't use a steam plow.

A man's happiness may depend upon the load he is capable of carrying. A quiet little game is one in which money does nearly all the talking. England may be the mother country, but the United States seems to be the father-in-law country. A man refuses to believe that a girl knows how to kiss unless he has it direct from her own lips.

What He Was Writing For.

(New York Tribune.) F. Marlon Crawford, the prolific novelist, was introduced to a young woman recently. Hearing that he was a novelist, she said: "And have you written anything that will live after you are gone?" "I don't know," he replied. "You see, what I am after is something that will enable me to live while I am here."

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A beautiful collection of Fancy Wool Waistings, a belated delivery just received, for this week at 25c

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For 4 Hours Only From 8 A. M. to 12.

15c Fleeced Flannelettes, 10c Per Yard

EXTRA HEAVY GRADE FLANNELETTES IN ALL THE DESIRABLE COLORS FOR HOUSE DRESSER, SACQUES, KIMONAS, ETC., STRIPES AND FIGURED DESIGNS, EXTRA SPECIAL VALUES FOR MONDAY FORENOON ONLY.

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Colored All Wool Cheviot Suitings, Colored All Wool Fancy Knob Suitings, Black All Wool Venetian Cloth, Black All Wool Reversible Cheviot.

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50-inch All Wool Navy/Granite Cloth, Colored Metallic Mohair, dots and stripes; Colored All Wool Double-warp Cheviot, Serge, 46-inch Black Medium and Heavyweight Brillantine, 46-inch Black All Wool Double-warp Cheviots.

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THERE IS REAL WARMTH IN A PAIR OF TIGHTS. THEY FIT THE FORM SNUGLY, RETAIN THE HEAT OF THE BODY AND EFFECTUALLY REPEL THE COLD. THESE USEFUL UNDER GARMENTS THIS WEEK AT REDUCED PRICES.

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